

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1-7 (Canceled)

8. (New) An electric power tool, comprising:

a drive device;

an output shaft transmitting a rotary power of said drive device, said output shaft having  $n$  V-grooves, wherein  $n$  is an integer greater than 1;

a gear disposed on the output shaft and spaced therefrom, said gear having  $n$  V-grooves; and

$n$  power transmission keys each composed of an elastic body and provided between said output shaft and said gear, each of said power transmission keys having rectangular shape when viewed axially, said rectangular shape having two opposite longer sides and two opposite shorter sides so that one of said shorter sides receives a rotational force from said gear.

9. (New) The electric power tool as claimed in claim 8, wherein each of said V-grooves of said output shaft has an angle of 90 degrees, and each of said V-grooves of said gear has an angle of 90 degrees.

10. (New) The electric power tool as claimed in claim 8, wherein said  $n$  is two or more.

11. (New) The electric power tool as claimed in claim 8, wherein each of said  $n$  V-grooves is provided parallel to an axial center of said output shaft.

12. (New) The electric power tool as claimed in claim 8, wherein each of said  $n$  power transmission keys is made of high-strength plastic.

13. (New) An electric power tool, comprising:

a drive device;

an output shaft transmitting a rotary power of said drive device, said output shaft having  $n$  V-grooves, wherein  $n$  is an integer greater than 1;

$n$  power transmission keys each composed of an elastic body, each of said power transmission keys having rectangular shape when viewed axially, each of said power transmission keys having one surface abutting against a side of a corresponding one of said  $n$  V-grooves,

a gear disposed on the output shaft and spaced therefrom, said gear having  $n$  V-grooves each abutting against another surface of a corresponding one of said  $n$  power transmission keys in a shaft hole portion of said gear; and

$n$  separate members each composed of a metal, wherein

each of said power transmission keys and each of said separate members form a key assembly so that each key assembly is provided between said output shaft and said gear,

Serial No.: Divisional of  
Application No. 09/921,605

said rectangular shape has two opposite longer sides and two opposite shorter sides so that one of said shorter sides receives a rotational force via a corresponding one of said n separate members from said gear, and power transmission is performed by said output shaft, said key assembly and said gear in such a manner that said output shaft contacts said n separate members during application of a large load.

14. (New) The electric power tool as claimed in claim 13, wherein each of said V-grooves of said output shaft has an angle of 90 degrees, and each of said V-grooves of said gear has an angle of 90 degrees.

15. (New) The electric power tool as claimed in claim 13, wherein said n is two or more.

16. (New) The electric power tool as claimed in claim 13 wherein each of said n V-grooves is provided parallel to an axial center of said output shaft.

17. (New) The electric power tool as claimed in claim 13, wherein each of said n power transmission keys is made of high-strength plastic.

18. (New) The electric power tool as claimed in claim 13, wherein each of said n separate members is inserted into the shaft hole portion.

Serial No.: Divisional of  
Application No. 09/921,605

19. (New) The electric power tool as claimed in claim 13, wherein each of said n  
separate members is formed integrally with said gear.